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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**COUNTRY **China/Hong Kong**SUBJECT **CMSNC and BOTRA, Hong Kong**

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1. The Hong Kong office of China Merchants Steam Navigation Company (CMSNC) announced business as usual for the part of CMSNC which is not Nationalist Government-owned. CMSNC has ten ships in Hong Kong.
2. Hong Kong assets, including five fishing boats and two LST's, of the Board of Trustees, Rehabilitation Affairs (BOTRA) are likely to be taken by the Chinese Communists. Upon announcement of the British recognition of the Chinese Communists, BOTRA officials ordered its ships in Hong Kong to leave for Taiwan, but the crews refused. Both of the LST's are immobilized owing to the lack of spare parts. BOTRA officials fear that the Nationalists may attempt to destroy these vessels to prevent the Communist takeover.
3. The head of the Hong Kong office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the office was closed and left for Hainan. Minor officials of Nationalist banks in Hong Kong are awaiting the Communist takeover\*.

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